 MD. FRUIT GROWER

The Summer Meeting

After some unavoidable delay, the date for the annual summer meeting for fruit growers has been set for Wednesday, July 22, beginning at 10 A.M. The growers will assemble at the University of Maryland Horticultural Farm, located on the Baltimore-Washington Boulevard (U.S. Route 1) about one mile south west of Beltsville and three miles northeast of College Park. Here, the growers will be shown the cover crops work, systems of tree training, fruit stock work, variety trials, etc. At lunch time, the group will go to the log cabin located on the U. S. Horticultural Field Station, just across the road. Arrangements will be made for purchase of sandwiches and there will be the usual coffee or lemonade. Those desiring, may bring their own lunch. After lunch Dr. Magness and his associates will conduct the growers on a tour of some of the fruit plots, showing varieties, soil management, spray plots, etc. and since all things cannot be seen in so short a time, any growers desiring to stay later, will be shown some of the other work with plants in which they are most interested.

Plan to get to this meeting. There will be lots to see. Many of your old friends will be there. Bring the family. They will enjoy the trip and there will be a cool place for them to rest. We will be looking for you and every effort will be made to make your visit a pleasant one. A cordial invitation is extended to all fruit growers of Maryland and the neighboring States.

The Maryland Fruit Grower

The Executive Committee of the Maryland State Horticultural Society decided to not issue the Maryland Fruit Grower during the months of July and August, and this News Letter has been substituted. It is difficult to get material and advertising during these months, and anyway, growers are too busy to read a lot at this season. Don't neglect reading the advertisements enclosed. These advertisers merit your business.

Fruit Prospects

The July 1 "Crop Prospects Report" as released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, indicated 45% condition of Maryland Apples as compared with 56% a year ago. Maryland peaches indicate 47% condition as compared with 51% a year ago. For the United States, apples show 42.6% condition as compared with 64.5% on the same date a year ago, and peaches 48.2% as compared to 60.9% a year ago. Growers interested in receiving a copy of the report, showing the prospects of the various states, should drop a card to Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, College Park, Md., for free copy.

Appalachian Apples

Appalachian Apples, a growers' plan for advertising apples, is going along nicel in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, with over a million bushels actually signed up at ½¢ a bushel, and still going. Maryland sign-up is fairly good. Growers have been reluctant to come out to meetings, but there is interest in the plan. It is going to be difficult to reach every grower personally, but an effort will be made to see a goodly number. Here is a plan to expand the apple market, and to attempt to increase apple uses. It should appeal to <u>every</u> grower, and it certainly is cheap advertising. Not entirely perfect — nothing is — but if every grower would sign up for even part of his crop, there would be more money to do more advertising, and certainly the public needs to be told about the apple. This plan has possibilities of expansion, even nationally. Sign your agreement and send it in, or write A. F. Vierheller, College Park, Maryland, for information. Maryland must not fall down on this job. It is merely the grower's chance to help his business. Why not attend to this matter <u>right away</u>, before you forget it? Appalachian Apples is a going concern, set up and doing things already. Managed and controlled by growers of four states, Appalachian Apples is bound to do good work in apple advertising.

Japanese Beetle

It may happen that certain growers will sell fruit for truck delivery travelling through a section where a letter or certificate regarding Japanese beetle may be required. Growers are advised to write either to H. O. Windsor, Court House, Hagerstown, Maryland or W. C. Armstrong, Post Office Building, Baltimore, asking for regulations, or information pertaining to their particular orchard. This is a free service.

Fruit Diseases

Apple scab has done very little damage in most sections of the State, but there are some sections where it has caused considerable injury to fruit, in spite of careful and timely spraying at pre-blosson time. Apparently these outbreaks occurred after petal fall and were probably the result of continued cool nights and heavy dews.

Scattered infections of cedar rust have appeared in some sections of the State, but the damage has not been serious, commercially. Some neglected blocks, here and there have been almost defoliated by cedar rust.

Fire blight has been serious in some spots and there is considerable black rot showing up in all sections of the State, following injury to parts of the trees, during the winter and spring of 1935.

The next trouble to be avoided is bitter rot. Prevention seems to be the only practical way to handle this disease. Thorough, timely spraying with 4-8-100 Bordeaux is a part of the battle and if there are trees or sections of the orchard where bitter rot persists, the mummied, rotted fruits should be raked up and burned during the dormant season. This is work, but has been done by some Maryland growers, with almost perfect results. It usually appears in July, showing up as small brown spots on the fruit. Some varieties are resistant to bitter rot. Varieties such as York, Stayman, Arkansas, Rome, and Winesap are resistant to the bitter rot fungus, while Jonathan, Grimes Smokehouse, Stark, Delicious, Northern Spy, Newton, Ben Davis and Gano are non-resistant.

Peach diseases have been rather light up to early July, but there is always possibility of brown rot and scab showing up until ripening time. Many growers are using small amounts of sulfur dust in the packing house brushing machines at time of peach packing, to help carry the peaches to market without serious danger of rot development in transit.

Cooling of Fruit

More refrigeration is required to cool fruit if the cooling is done slowly and more refrigeration is necessary, if the fruit is not cooled and kept at fairly low temperature. Fruit is continually giving off heat in carrying on its life processes. Pre-cooling of fruit is a help in shipments and rapid cooling to a temperature low enough to slow down the life processes, is an economy. In slow cooling or in keeping fruit at higher temperatures, it is necessary to not only cool the fruit, but to counteract the heat that is given off into the air by the life processes going on within the fruit.

University of Maryland,
Extension Service,
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A. F. Vierheller
Extension Horticulturist.